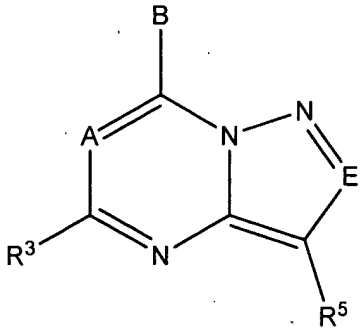
IN THE CLAIMS

9. (Previously amended) A compound of the formula



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

the dashed lines represent optional double bonds;

A is nitrogen or CH, or CCH_3

B $-CR^1R^2R^{10}$ $-C(=CR^2R^{11})R^1$, $-NHCR^1R^2R^{10}$, $-OCR^1R^2R^{10}$, $-SCR^1R^2R^{10}$, $-CR^2R^{10}NHR^1$, $-CR^2R^{10}OR^1$, $-CR^2R^{10}SR^1$ or $-COR^2$;

E is selected from CR^4, C=O, C=S, sulfur, oxygen, CR^4R^6 and NR^8;

G is carbon;

R^1 is C_1-C_6 alkyl optionally substituted with one or two substituents independently selected from hydroxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, -O-(C_1-C_4 alkyl), CF_3, -C(=O)O-(C_1-C_4alkyl), -OC(=O)(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -OC(=O)N(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2 alkyl), -NHCO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -COOH, -COO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -CONH(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -CON(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2 alkyl), -S(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -CN, $-NO_2$, -SO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), $-SO_2$(C_1-C_4 alkyl), $-SO_2$NH(C_1-C_4 alkyl) and $-SO_2$N(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2 alkyl), wherein each of the C_1-C_4 alkyl groups in the foregoing R^1 groups may optionally contain one or two double or triple bonds;

R^2 is C_1-C_{12} alkyl which may optionally contain from one to three double or triple bonds, aryl or (C_1-C_4 alkylene)aryl, wherein said aryl and the aryl moiety of said (C_1-C_4 alkylene)aryl is selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, benzothienyl, pyridyl, quinolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, imidazolyl, furanyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiazolyl,

isothiazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrrolyl, indolyl, pyrrolopyridyl, oxazolyl and benzoxazolyl; C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl or (C_1-C_6 alkylene)(C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl), wherein one or two of the carbon atoms of said cycloalkyl and the 5 to 8 membered cycloalkyl moieties of said (C_1-C_6 alkylene)(C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl) may optionally and independently be replaced by an oxygen or sulfur atom or by NZ^2 wherein Z^2 is selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, benzyl and C_1-C_4 alkanoyl, and wherein each of the foregoing R^2 groups may optionally be substituted with from one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, fluoro, hydroxy and C_1-C_4 alkyl, or with one substituent selected from bromo, iodo, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, -OC(=O)(C_1-C_6 alkyl), -OC(=O)N(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2 alkyl), -S(C_1-C_6 alkyl), amino, -NH(C_1-C_2 alkyl), -N(C_1-C_2 alkyl)(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -N(C_1-C_4 alkyl)-CO-(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -NHCO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -COOH, -COO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -CONH(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -CON(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2 alkyl), -SH, -CN, -NO_2, -SO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -SO_2(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -SO_2NH(C_1-C_4 alkyl) and -SO_2N(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2 alkyl);

-NR^1R^2 or $CR^1R^2R^{10}$ may form a saturated 3 to 8 membered carbocyclic ring which may optionally contain from one to three double bonds and wherein one or two of the ring carbon atoms of such 5 to 8 membered rings may optionally and independently be replaced by an oxygen or sulfur atom or by NZ^3 wherein Z^3 is hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, benzyl or C_1-C_4 alkanoyl;

R^3 is hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, -O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), chloro, fluoro, bromo, iodo, (C_1-C_2 alkylene)-O-(C_1-C_2 alkyl), (C_1-C_2 alkylene)-OH, or -S(C_1-C_4 alkyl);

each R^4 is, independently, hydrogen, (C_1-C_6 alkyl), fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, hydroxy, cyano, amino, (C_1-C_2 alkylene)-OH, CF_3, CH_2SCH_3, nitro, -O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -N(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2 alkyl), -S(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -CO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -C(=O)H or -C(=O)O(C_1-C_4alkyl);

R^6 is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl;

R^8 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

R^5 is phenyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidyl, pyridazinyl and wherein each of the foregoing R^5 groups is substituted with from one to four substituents R^{13} wherein one to three of said substituents may be selected, independently, from fluoro, chloro, C_1-C_6 alkyl

and -O(C_1-C_6 alkyl) and one of said substituents may be selected from bromo, iodo, formyl, OH, (C_1-C_4 alkylene)-OH, (C_1-C_4alkylene)-O-(C_1-C_2 alkyl), -CN, -CF_3, -NO_2, -NH_2, -NH(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -N(C_1-C_2 alkyl)(C_1-C_6 alkyl), -OCO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), (C_1-C_4 alkylene)-O-(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -S(C_1-C_6 alkyl), (C_1-C_4 alkylene)-S-(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -C(=O)O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -C(=O)(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -COOH, -SO_2NH(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -SO_2N(C_1-C_2 alkyl)(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -SO_2NH_2, -NHSO_2(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -S(C_1-C_6 alkyl) and -SO_2(C_1-C_6 alkyl), and wherein each of the C_1-C_4 alkyl and C_1-C_6 alkyl moieties in the foregoing R^5 groups may optionally have one or two double bonds;

R^7 is hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, chloro, fluoro, iodo, bromo, hydroxy, -O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -C(=O)(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -C(=O)O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -OCF_3, -CF_3, -CH_2OH or -CH_2O(C_1-C_2 alkyl);

R^{10} is, hydroxy, methoxy or fluoro;

R^{11} is hydrogen or C_1-C_4 alkyl and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts of such compounds.

10. (Deleted)

11. (Previously Amended) A compound according to claim 9 wherein E is CH, CCH_3 or CC_2H_5.

18. (Deleted)

19. (Previously Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing a disorder or condition, the treatment or prevention of which can be effected or facilitated by inhibiting CRH binding protein in a mammal, comprising a CRH binding protein inhibiting amount of a compound according to claim 9 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. (Deleted)

23. (Deleted)